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Student Leaders Follow God's lead

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Leadership conference features renowned speakers

This summer, the 4th Annual Andrews University Leadership Conference, “Growing a Legacy,” celebrated the 20th anniversary of the leadership program at Andrews and featured two top keynote speakers.

Marshall Goldsmith was recognized in 2011 as the number one leadership thinker in the world at the bi-annual Thinkers50 ceremony sponsored by the *Harvard Business Review* and is the author or editor of 32 books that have become bestsellers in ten countries. His presentation addressed the topic, “How Successful Leaders Can Get Even Better.”

Gordon MacDonald serves as chancellor of Denver Seminary and is editor-at-large of *Leadership Journal*. He has written 20 books, including



Marshall Goldsmith, named the number one leadership thinker in the world by Harvard Business Review, presents during the 2014 Leadership Conference at Andrews University.

the award-winning *Ordering Your Private World*. His presentation was entitled “A Theology of Leadership.”

“We wanted to celebrate the mission of the program in leadership development,” says Robson Marinho,

chair of the Department of Leadership. “The program has enrolled and graduated participants who are CEOs of corporations, government officials, educational leaders, healthcare professionals, ministers of different denominations, and more. The ‘Growing a Legacy’ theme sought to celebrate 20 years of developing leaders to leave a legacy to society.”

The conference began in 2011 with the vision of engaging the community in discussing current issues in leadership and their implications beyond the local community.

“This conference is crucial as it builds the bridge between theory and practice,” says Marinho. “It addresses both the academic and practitioner side of leadership, applying theoretical concepts to leadership service to the community and the world.”

Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication



Livy Knott serves as the AUSA president for the 2014-2015 school year.

Student leaders follow God's lead

When the Andrews University Student Association officers for the 2014-2015 school year were announced last spring, one fact that stood out was

that all voted positions were filled by females — an Andrews first.

“I hardly noticed,” admits Olivia “Livy” Knott, 2014-2015 AUSA president. “All the voted positions were filled by talented, thoughtful and remarkable students; that certainly wasn’t a first.”

In addition to the elected positions, some officers were appointed and others recommended by their predecessors. The entire team is comprised of 16 students with a variety of majors and interests.

Though Knott has hopes and goals, just like any leader, she doesn’t necessarily have a list of things she wants to change. She appreciated last year’s officers and, especially, the president’s (Jonathan Jacobs) encouragement of independent student projects. There was a brainstorming and problem-solving group, storytelling and artistic events, and even a movement promoting conversation between strangers.

“Jonny eagerly supported them all, never once trying to pull them under

the AUSA umbrella,” says Knott. “And that’s when it began to dawn on me that the job of AUSA is to make students feel awesome about Andrews, not about AUSA.”

Knott trusts the team all will work well together. During the summer, she saw them becoming friends — not mere teammates, and sensed a general spirit of wanting not only one’s own department to be successful, but to be involved with and supportive of the other departments whenever possible.

“So many of these students are deeply committed to Christ and eager to bring this quality with them into their position,” says Knott. “Our dreams for the year — big as they seem to us — are tiny when compared to what the great Leader can do with a student body turned over to him.”

Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication